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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-31 (cancelled).

32 (currently amended). A method of treating a patient ~~in order to treat~~ having a neurodegenerative disorder comprising administering to that said patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate, thereby elevating the patient's blood levels of ketone bodies, defined as the sum total of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, to a therapeutic level effective to treat the disorder, wherein the patient's blood level is elevated to from 0.3mM to 20mM and wherein the disorder is memory loss associated with aging.

33 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the metabolic precursor is selected from the group consisting of free fatty acids and triglycerides.

34 (new). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Alzheimer's disease.